

Dear Josh,

Chalet Le Chardon
C.H. 3961 ST. LUC

very many thanks for Switzerland
your "Personal Memo" "Reminiscences", 15/VII/86
of 16 June 1986; it caught up finally
with me in our June-October residence at
7000 ft.

In reply to your questions about the
1946 C.S.H. Symposium (a memorable one):

1) My evidence of "savoir faire" 1986 > 1946

is nil, I was trying to be kind.

In fact I heard rumours that 1986 = 1946,
but I can't believe them completely.

2) I have no notes taken at the meeting:

I never do, or in the rare cases when I
wrote down something I usually destroyed
it. The "respected old bacteriologist" was
most certainly not Lwoff (he would not
have asked the question). He was a very
mild elderly american bacteriologist
whose name I have forgotten.

I remember clearly the impression
your short talk made on me, especially
since two years before I had written to
Luria asking for his opinion on a
search for recombination in bacteria
based ~~not~~ on ~~assimilation~~ prototrophy but
on colour from two colourless mutants.
Luria strongly discouraged me.

But the visual deepest impression
was how you rejected, almost with
contempt, the not wholly unreasonable

remark by the "elderly" bacteriologist."

I am now a rather senile man, spending all my energy on a book (started 30 years ago) on plants at high altitudes; the main problem is how on earth can they manage to live ^{alive} under such conditions.

It would be certainly very nice to get in touch again. If you pass through London (Oct-June) phone me (01-636 9441). If you happen to be in Switzerland, call me in the evening (7-9) 021-65 14 35.

All the best yours sincerely
Porter